NEW PUBLICATIONS.

LIFE OF ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS. LIFE OF ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS. By RICHARD MALCOLY JOHNSTON and WILLIAM HAND BROWNE. Syn., pp. 619. J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The memoir of the eminent Georgia statesman presented in this volume has in most respects the character and the interest of an autobiography, as it was prepared from materials furnished by Mr. Stephens himself, including copious extracts from his private journals and confidential correspondence, which have been made the basis for a detailed and singularly instructive narrative. It presents a consecutive history of his professional and political career, with a full explanation and defence of his position during the Great Conflict, supplemented by a rich store of personal incidents and experiences, and attractive sketches of his private life and surroundings. His frank comments on distinguished public men among his contemporaries, which are related without reserve, form a valuable portion of the work. One of the earliest judgments pronounced n political characters, written before he was thirty years old, relates to Alexander Hamilton and the leaders of the original Federal party, and will be found valuable for its fairness and compre-

Considering the merits of even the most obnoxious measures of those days, apart from all party and personal bearing, just as you would look at the laws of ancient nations, I believe that there is not a great deal more to censure in them than in many of the laws we have had passed in much later times. The patriotisms, however, of those men who were called Federalists, even at the election of Mr. Jefferson, no man can doubt. They were among the earliest and most devoted friends and movers of the Revolution, and were the masterspirits that struggled for our independence. They were all no doubt friends to good government; but differed, as men always will, as to the best methods and medium of administering it. It is true that Mr. Jefferson in his Ana (some notes in the end of his works) intimates that a large party then existed in the country favorable to a monarchy. But for my own part I do not believe one word of it. His aim was at Hamilton; but he was, in point of intellect, integrity and patriotism, high above all such suspicious. Jefferson even intimates openly, in one of his letters, that Washington was aspiring to a throne. With Hamilton's notions of government to do not agree; but that he was in favor of chauging it.

the age of thirty-one), as the candidate of the Whigs, and retained his seat by successive reëlections for sixteen years. During the first session he took no prominent part in the business of Congress, but dea preparation for future work. In a letter to his brother, with whom he kept up a constant correspondence, we find a brilliant description of Mr. Clay on one of his great parade days in the House :-

spondence, we find a brilliant description of Mr. Clay on one of his great parade days in the House:—

January 19 (1845).—Last night Mr. Clay made a show on the Colonization question, and such a show I never saw before. Men came from Baltimore, Philadelphia and New-York, to say nothing of Alexandria and this city. The House and galleries were jammed and rammed before 5 o'clock. When I came over at bailipast 6, I found I could not get in at the door below, much less get up the steps leading to the House. The people were wedged in as tight as they could be equeezed, from outside the door all the way up the steps, and the current could neither move up nor down. There were several thousands still outside. I availed myself of my knowledge of the meanderings of an intrinate, narrow passage under the rotund, and round by the Supreme Court room, into the alley from the Clerk's room, into the side-door by the House Post Office; and through this Mr. Cobb and I, with Robinson, of Indiana, wound our way, fluding it unobstructed until we got to the door, where the crowd was as tight as human bodies could be jammed; but we drove through the solid mass and got in, and passed on the space by the fire to the left of the Speaker's chair, where, by looking over the screen, we could see the chair. When we got to this place, what a sight was before our gyes! The great new chandelier, lighted up with gas, was brilliant and soliendid indeed; and then, what a sea of heads and faces! Every nook and corner on the floor below, and the galieries above, the asides, the area, the steps on the Speaker's rostrum, were running over. The crowd was pushed over the railing, and men were standing on the outside cornice all around; and they were even hanging on the old clock and the figure of Time. Such a sight you never saw. None in the hall could turn; women fainted and had to be carried out over the solid mass. At about 7 Clay came, but could hardly be got in. The crowd, however, after a while was opened, while the dome resounded with uninterrap

ing a dark cloud over the horizon, portending speedy trouble in the future. Mr. Stephens augured no good from the general signs of the times, es himself to that effect in a letter under date of January 21, 1850 :-

and expresses himself to that effect in a letter under date of January 21, 1850:—

In the message received to-day you will see that the policy of General Taylor is that the people inhabiting the new acquisitions shall come into the Union as States, without the adoption of Territorial Governments. To this policy be is, and considers himself, committed. And I now believe if any Territorial Government [bill] should be passed with the Wilmot Proviso in it, he would withhold his approval. We shall, therefore, most probably have California and New-Mexico as States before long. But the bearing of this policy on the great questions of the day is a matter still to be considered. Will the siavery question be settled in this way! I think not. My deliberate opinion at this time, or the opinion! I have formed from the best lights before me, is that it will be the bedrinning of an end which will be the severance of the political bonds that unite the siaveholding and non-staveholding States of this Union. I give you this view rather in opposition to the one is ventured to express on the evening of the 25th of December. I then looked to settlement and adjustment and a preservation of the Union: and as far as I then saw on the horizon, I think the opinion was correct. There will, perhaps be a temporary settlement and a temporary quiet. But I have lately been taking a further and a broader view of the future. When I look at the causes of the present discontent, I am persuaded there will never again be harmonly between the two great sections of the Union. When California and New-Mexico and Oregon and Nebraska are admitted as States, then the majority in the Senate will be against us. The power will be with them to harms, annoy and oppress. And it is a law of nature that nothing shall stand still. Cast your eye, then, a few years into the future, and see what images of strife are seen figuring on the boards! I is how for human hondage. Can Southern men occupy seats in the halts of a Legislature with this constant reproach! It is n

Mr. Stephens's principal anxiety in view of the Impending crisis, appears to have been called forth by the lack of consummate statesmen to sit at the sion of that kind was elicited by the conduct of cer-

helm and direct the storm. A remarkable confession of that kind was clicited by the conduct of certain members of the Georgia Legislature:—

I would not for the world court the good will of either a knave or a fool by the sacrifice of principle; but I would not quarre; with them, nor canage my conduct toward them because of their hot appreciating my motives or conduct. I look upon —— as a most consummate knave, and yet I suppose he will be sent to the Njashvill; Convention | and there take a high stand on Southern kights! "What is to become of us I cannot tell. But everything I see around me augurs the approach of narrehy. The opinion I gave you some time ago is strengthened by time. I see no prospect of a continuance of this Union iong. The Nsahville Convention will be held. It will be the nucleus of another sectional assemblage. A fixed allenation of feeling will be the result. The anti-slavery feeling and feeling of dismemberant may be abated, but it will return with increased force. It is the side of the age, the monomania of the century in which we live. Its march is onward, steady and sicultily, like the approach of some mysterious epidemic. Whou, where, or how it is to end, God only knows. I we has virtue and particitions among our people and not demagogism. I should hope much from a Southern Confederacy. But I fear such men as — and ——, and all of that class, cannot safely control the destines of any people. They may create a revolution, but they cannot build up a good government. Other heads, other heads, and other hearts will be necessary for such a work. We have the ability, the natural position, and the reacunces for a great and prosperous people. All the elements of power and progress are still within reach. All we want is the good sense, the forecast, the secund judgment, and the proper principles to exert them rightly, in order to give us all that a nation ought to have for its elevation and renown. But I fear we should soon degenerate the most and the bost for event this at heading power of the

and no one pretends to know where we are drifting. There is a great deal in luck I have heard you say: my greatest hope at this time for safety is in some fortunate urn of that ort; or rather, I would say, that my greatest hope is in the hands of Providence. I hope all will yet urn out well; but I do not see how or when. The dark hour, it is said, is just before day: may it be so with regard to our present position of affairs! I do not, however, feel half that gloomy spirit that I felt three winters ago when the war was raging and I saw all these difficulties in the distance. The storm-cloud was then gathering; and as in nature the most pairful and terrible moment is when the horizon is blackening with the coming tempest, so is it with me in this matter. The flury of the gale gives life to the scene. Nothing is so depressing to the spirits as the hushed calm which precedes the devastating whiri of the tornado or sweep of the torrent. When it is upon you, there is some exhibitantion in its force and fury, a feeling somewhat kindred to the excitement of battle. Such is my condition now, and such is the condition of things here, and hence I never spent a more cheerful and agreeable Winter in Washington. The same remark, I believe, is applicable to all around me. The members are all friendly in their intercourse; and to see Northern and Southern men together you would not suppose there was anything like enmity between them.

He makes an exception, however, not only in respect of eloquence, but of statesmanship, in favor of Calhoun, Webster, Clay, and Benton, all of whom were in the Senate at that time, and whom he designates as "the master spirits of the last quarter of a century, at least on this continent." Some of the prominent persons are described as follows:-

Some of the prominent persons are described as follows:—

Millard Fillmore, occupying the conspicuous seat erected for the second officer of the Government.

" " His countenance is open and bland, his chest full. His eye is bright, bine and intelligent; his hair thick and slightly gray. His personal appearance is striking; and no one can look at him without feeling conscious that he is a man far above the average. On his right, near the aisle leading to the front door, sits Cass with his hands folded in his lap as if to hold up his protruding and superincumbent abdomen; his sleepy-looking eyes occasionally glancing at the galleries, and then at the crowd pressing in below. Benton sits in his well-known place, leaning back in his chair, and giving all who desire it a full view of his person. One vacant seat is seen not far off on the same side of the House. A vacant seat in such a crowd excites the attention of all. "Whose seat is tant if goes in whispers around. "It is Calhoun's—not well enough to be out yet." "Who is that sitting by Cass if says one. "That is Buchanan—come all the way from home to hear Clay." Who is that stilling by Cass if says one. "That is Buchanan—come all the way from home to hear Clay." "Who is stantly moving if" "What, that old skeleton of a man yonder?" "Yes." "That is Ritchle, of The Union." "Who is that walking down the aisle with that uncouth coat, and all that hair about his chin! Did you ever see such a swaggerer? He can't be a Senator." "That is Sam Houston." "But where is Webster! I don't see him." "He is in the Supreme Court, where he has a case to argue to-day." See Corwin, and Badger, and Berrien, and Dawson, all near Clay; all of them quiet while Clay pursues his writing. On the opposite side, Butler, and Foote, and Clemens, and Donglas.

After the carriage of the motion of Mr. Mangum to proceed to the consideration of the order of the day, Mr. Clay folds his papers and puts them in his desk, and after the business is amounced, rises gracefully and majestically. Instantanceu

A remarkable conversation with a friend in the menth of May, 1860, gives Mr. Stephens's gloomy

tion why there must be war in case of the election of the Republican candidate, he remarks:—

Because there are not virtue and patriotism and sense enough left in the country to avoid it. Mark me, when I repeat that in less than twelve months we shall be in the midst of a bloody war. What is to become of us then God only knows. The Union will certainly be disrupted; and what will make it so disastrous is the way in which it will be done. The Southern people are not unanimous now, and will not be, on the question of secession. The Republican nominee will be elected. Then South Carolina will secede. For me, I should be content to let her have her own way, and go out alone. But the Guil States will follow her example. The people are by no means unanimous, but the indiorities will follow her. They are what we will start off with in our new nation—the Guil States following South Carolina. After that the Border States will hesitate, and their hesitation will encourage the North to make war upon us. If the South would unanimously and simultaneously go out of the Union we could make a very strong government. But even then, if there were only Slave States in the new confederacy, we should be known as the Black Republic, and be without the sympathy of the world. Still, if we had wise and patriotic men, and men that were statesmen, we could make a great country of the South.

In the same conversation, he justifies his refusal

In the same conversation, he justifies his refusal to have his name presented before the Charleston Convention as a candidate for the presidency:-

The Democratic party had quite enough men from whom to choose. I did not wish the office. In perfect sincerity with you, I should exceedingly dislike to be President. I do not wish that office nor any other. What amazes me in Douglas is his desire to be President, I have sometimes asked him what he desired the office for. It has never yet added to the fame of a single man. for. It has never yet added to the fame of a single man. You may look over the list of the Fresidents; which of them made any reputation after he became President! Four years, or even eight, are too short a time to enable a man to pursue a policy which will be permanent enough to give him reputation. Louis Napoleon, as President of France under the Constitution, could have made no reputation. He is beginning now to make it. When he shall have been where he is as long again as he has been already, he may then, if his abilities are really great, become illustrious. I could never see why so many men in this country should be anxious to be President. People don't generally believe me in what I say about myself in this respect; but that is all very indifferent to me. * * No, sir; I far prefer living here—right here—to being President of the United States. If I had loved office I should have continued in the House of Representatives. That office to me is preferable to the Presidency. If I were ambitious to make a reputation, I should be able to make it faster in that place than in the other.

Our extracts from this pregnant volume might be

Our extracts from this pregnant volume might be continued to a much greater extent, did our space permit; but we can only commend it to the attention of our readers as a calm and dispassionate statement of the views of a great Southern authority in regard to the course of political action which terminated in the disastrous war. It will be read, of course, as an expression and illustration of the ideas of the South, and no one will be disappointed at its Southern tone and coloring, which in fact constitutes the principal interest of the work. The cause which has compelled so many sacrifices and immolated so many victims could not have a better exponent of its claims, than the just and able man who is the subject of the biography.

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B22 Lexington ave., corner of 6 od al. DAY and BOARDING SCHOOL with KINDERGARTEN, REOPENS September 18. M ISS MOSHER'S SCHOOL, No. 226 East

M.R.S. M. F. WALTON'S Primary School and Kindergarten will reopen Oct. 1, 63 East 524-st., Kin dergarten Training Class Nov. 4.

M ISS BALLOW'S English and French School for Young Ladies and Children, No. 24 East 22d-st., will

MRS. WILLIAMES ENGLISH and FRENCH BOARDING and DAY SCHOOL for Young Ladies and Chidren, 26 West 39th st., reopens September 26. Lec-ture course commences 1st November.

MRS. M. RODGERS GRIFFITTS, No. 23 German Day School for Young Ladles and Children for THUBSDAY, September 20.

MRS. KITTIE BRODHEAD ROEBBELEN'S Home and Day school for Young Ladies and Children, 69 East 61st-st. Thorough instruction in English and French. Primary department for boys. School reopens September 25

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MR. OTTO W. FUETTERER (Goettingen University, Hanover, Germany) will resume instruction on September 20, and will receive private pupils in German and the classics.

Particular attention paid to German pronunciation and election.

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October.

Punctual attendance requested on THURSDAY, SEPTEM-RER 26.

BER 26.

NO. 15 WEST 42D-ST.

Miss Ayres' English, French and German School for Young Ladies and Children reopens Monday, September 23.

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THE MISSES MARSHALL'S Day and Board-ing School for Young Ladles and Children, No. 250 West 38th st. will be reopened on Monday, September 16.

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We heartily indorse the above well merited notice from the Media American, and commend Mr. S. C. Shortlidge's Acad-emy to public favor: Media Americana and empty to public favor:

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MISS S. B. MATHEWS' Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies, Summit, New-Jersey, will open on Tuesday, October 1, 1878.

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MISS NOTT'S ENGLISH and FRENCH No. 33 Wall-st., New-Haven, Conn.; the sixth year opens September 18; circulars sent upon application MT. KISCO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE,
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